

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
Forest Order No. 15-14-07
Fire Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from July 30, 2014, until the French Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System land within the French Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the French Fire Closure area begins on Forest Road No. 4S81 at Saginaw Creek, then continues south along Saginaw Creek to its intersection with the San Joaquin River, then continues northeast along the San Joaquin River (Madera/Fresno County Line) to its intersection with the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary, then continues north along the Ansel Adams Wilderness Boundary to the Hell's Half Acre Trailhead, then continues northeast along Forest Road No. 6S19 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4S81, then continues west along Forest Road No. 4S81 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S01, then continues northwest along Forest Road No. 6S01 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S66, then continues due south to Browns Meadow, then continues south along Forest Road No. 8S09 to the Sierra National Forest boundary, then continues east along Forest Road No. 8S27 back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on the National Forest System roads listed below and shown on the attached map.
 - a. Any National Forest System road within the French Fire Closure Area.
 - b. Forest Road No. 4S81, from Redinger Overlook, then east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 8S27.

36 CFR 261.54(e).

3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the French Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

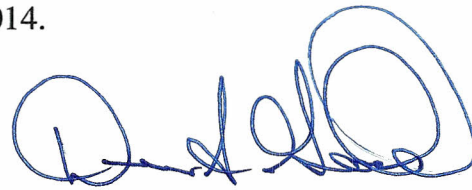
1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited actor omission.

2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California on July 30, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Gould', is written over a horizontal line.

DEAN GOULD
Forest Supervisor



Forest
Service

Sierra
National
Forest

1600 Tollhouse Rd
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-0706
(559) 294-4809 FAX
(559) 322-0425 TTY
CA Relay Service 711

File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: July 30, 2014

Subject: Forest Order – French Fire Closure (#15-14-07)

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a closure order for the French Fire on the Sierra National Forest.

On the morning of July 28, 2014 at 5:45am Shuteye Lookout reported a single column of smoke where the “French Trail” crosses the Rock Creek drainage on the Bass Lake Ranger District. On July 29, 2014 the French Fire had grown from its original estimate size of 60 acres to over 1,500. The French Fire has grown to an estimated 5,600 acres by 8:00am on July 30, 2014.

The purpose of this closure is to provide for public safety and facilitate fire suppression efforts. The French Fire has been a fast growing fire and weather conditions are such that the fire will continue to grow. This restriction is necessary for the purposes of ensuring public safety until the wildfire can be managed to protect the public. In addition, there is limited road access to the area creating a potential hazard for visitors to become trapped. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within the fire perimeter. The National Forest System roads and trails within the burned area will also be closed due to fire suppression activities that create a hazard to the public. We are also closing a portion of Forest Road 4S81 outside of the area closure boundary due to public and fire personnel safety concerns. The intersection of Forest Road 4S81 at Redinger Overlook allows for a safe stoppage and turnaround location for the public that will limit interference and mitigate safety concerns with fire suppression personnel traveling both to and from the French Fire and the Incident Command Post in the town of North Fork. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is fully suppressed.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.



